

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated October 5, 2005.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,331,211 issued to Lyman.

The Examiner importantly indicated that Claims 3 and 6 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Summary of Amendments

By this response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations from previous dependent Claim 3, which has been cancelled. In this regard, amended Claim 1 is essentially previous Claim 3 rewritten in independent form.

Therefore, amended Claim 1 is believed to be allowable, as are Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Applicant additionally notes that the Examiner indicated that Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 was similar to Claim 3 (they both recited “wherein each said connection is a welded connection”). The primary distinction between Claim 6 and Claim 3 was that Claim 6 depended from Claim 4 (which depended from Claim 1), whereas Claim 3 depended directly from Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that the subject matter previously recited in Claim 6 is now recited in new Claim 1 and dependent Claim 4.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice of allowance is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any suggestions for expediting allowance of the above identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s representative at the telephone number listed below.

Case: **BOMKE-001A**

Response to Office Action of October 5, 2005

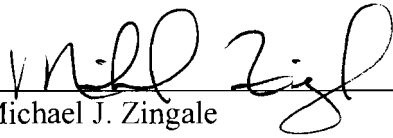
Application No.: 10/678,912

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/17/10

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